Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02157 041709Z

62
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 CG-00 AID-20 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COA-02

DLOS-06 SWF-02 AGR-20 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 CEA-02

CAB-09 L-03 EUR-25 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /158 W
---------- 085406
R 041643Z APR 74
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5021

UNCLAS GENEVA 2157

PASS TO: REDDING, DRISCOL DOT
ARMSTRONG, MARAD
ALLEN, COAST GUARD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECE XG
SUBJ: ECE - GROUP OF RAPPORTEURS ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT (GRCT)

SUMMARY: ECE GROUP OF RAPPORTEURS ON CONTAINER TRANS-
PORT (GRCT) MET APRIL 1-4 AND DISCUSSED IMPLEMENTATION
OF CONTAINER SAFETY CONVENTION (CSC), UNCTAD-IPG
QUESTIONNAIRE ON AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CONTAINER
TRANSPORT, AUTOMATIC PROCEDURES FOR CONTAINER IDENTIFICA-
TION, A UNIFORM INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT, AND DATA REQUIRED
FOR INTERMODAL TRANSPORT PLANNING. END SUMMARY

1. IMCO REPRESENTATIVE PROVIDED GRCT WITH BACKGROUND
INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CONTAINER SAFETY CONVENTION
(CSC) AND ITS PRESENT STATUS. IMCO ASSEMBLY HAS ADOPTED
COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF IMCO RULES SO
THAT STATES WHICH ARE NOT PARTIES TO IMCO CONVENTION
MAY PARTICIPATE IN AMENDMENT OF CSC. UK RAISED
ISSUE OF UNPLATED CONTAINERS. MASSON (IMCO) REPLIED
THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO BE CONCERNED BECAUSE STATES
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02157 041709Z

WOULD WANT TO PLATE CONTAINERS. U.S. REPORTED ON STATUS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OF RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTING STATUTES AND PROCEDURES.
PROBLEMS ARISING UNDER THE CONVENTION WOULD BE PRESENTED
TO PROPER AUTHORITY WHEN THEY AROSE. GDR EXPECTS TO
RATIFY CSC LATER THIS YEAR. RAPPORTEURS EXCHANGED VIEWS
AND AGREED TO REPORT AT NEXT GRCT MEETING ON PROGRESS.

2. GRCT RECEIVED EXPLANATION BY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT OF
STUDY PLANS FOR THE NOVEMBER 1974 IPG ON AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORT. INFORMAL QUESTIONS
AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOLLOWED. U.S. INQUIRED WHETHER
UNCTAD WAS STUDYING SHIPPER AND CARRIER EXPERIENCE WITH
ICC UNIFORM RULES. REPLY WAS NEGATIVE. STATE REPLIES TO
UNCTAD QUESTIONNAIRE ARE DUE END OF APRIL. UNCTAD STUDY
INCLUDING COMPENDIUM OF GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT LEAST 6 WEEKS BEFORE IPG AND HOPEFULLY
IN TIME FOR SEPTEMBER GRCT. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON
DEFINITION OF "INSTITUTIONAL", "MULTIMODAL OPERATION",
AND "MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT". NETHERLANDS AND UK EXPLAINED
THAT SOME OF THEIR PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCE WITH U.S.
STEMMED FROM THEIR LACK OF DOMESTIC REGULATION OF CARRIERS.
NETHERLANDS STATED THAT THERE IS ONLY NEED TO FILL THE
GAPS IN THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL SYSTEMS. FRG
STATED THAT THERE MUST BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON OPERATIONS
OF MULTIMODAL OPERATORS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. U.S.
REP. PARTICIPATED IN REQUESTS FOR UNCTAD CLARIFICATION
OF QUESTIONNAIRE AND IN THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

3. PRIOR TO DISCUSSION OF ITEM 5, U.S., CANADA AND
SWEDEN INFORMALLY EXPLAINED TO CHAIRMAN THEIR WILLINGNESS
TO PARTICIPATE IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, BUT ALSO THEIR VIEW
THAT GROUP B POSITIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE FORMED IN OECD.
THIS AGREEABLE TO CHAIRMAN. SUBSEQUENT TO EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS, CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED NEXT GRCT SHOULD FORMULATE NATURE
OF ECE COOPERATION WITH UNCTAD ON SUBJECT MATTER. U.S. ON
THE FLOOR EXPRESSED USEFULNESS OF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BUT
THAT IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT GRCT MEETING
TO DETERMINE NATURE OF SUCH MEETING. SECRETARIAT REMINDED
MEETING THAT ITC HAD NOT REQUESTED GRCT TO FORMULATE VIEWS
BUT HAD LEFT TO GRCT TO DECIDE WHAT IT SHOULD DO. CHAIRMAN
AGREED TO U.S. SUGGESTION. CONSEQUENTLY, NEXT GRCT WILL
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AGAIN HAVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

4. UIC AND ICS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN UNIFORM INTERMODEL
INTERCHANGE AGREEMENT. FRG REPORTED THAT GERMAN SHIPOWNERS
WERE INTERESTED. U.S. STATED THAT THIS WAS A PRIVATE AGREE-
MENT AND THAT GRCT'S INTEREST IN IT SHOULD BE TO ASSIST
PRIVATE INDUSTRY IF INTERESTED. YUGOSLAVIA STATED THAT THIS
CONCEPT COULD BE VERY USEFUL IN DEVELOPMENT OF CONTAINER

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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TRANSPORT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CHAIRMAN WAS PARTI-
CULARLY IMPRESSED BY YUGOSLAVIA'S POINT AND CONCLUDED
THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ON AGENDA OF NEXT GRCT.
IMCO INFORMED GRCT OF NEW IMCO LAWS, REGULATIONS AND
RESOLUTIONS ON PREVENTION OF POLLUTION BY HARMFUL
SUBSTANCES CARRIED IN FREIGHT CONTAINERS. U.S.
COMMENTED THAT GRCT CONCERNS WITH CONTAINER POLLUTION
BE COORDINATED WITH IMCO IN ORDER TO PREVENT DUPLICATION
AND TO CREATE UNIFORMITY.

5. COMPETING SYSTEMS FOR AUTOMATIC READING OF CONTAINERS
WERE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED. ALL AGREED THAT GOVERNMENTS
HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT. UIC POSITION RELATIVE
TO IDENTIFICATION OF ONLY RAIL WAGONS RECEIVED SOME
CRITICISM PARTICULARLY FROM NETHERLANDS. UIC BELIEVES
RESOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION PARTLY DEPENDENT ON DEGREE OF
CENTRALIZED EUROPEAN WAGON CONTROL THAT DEVELOPS. DELEGATES
ALL WELCOMED INVITATION TO AN ACI DEMONSTRATION IN ROTTERDAM
BEING DEVELOPED BY USG WITH INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS CONCERNED.

6. SECRETARIAT PROVING MOST HELPFUL IN MOVING INTERMODAL
DATA TOPIC TOWARD USEFUL CONCLUSION THROUGH PREPARATION
OF A REVIEW OF EACH COUNTRY'S DATA AND REPORTS. THIS WILL
BE READY FOR SEPTEMBER GRCT. DALE

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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TAGS: ETRN, XG, ECE, IMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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